

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

Contact: Kena L. Rice

(316)269-6481

Headquarters 1200 Epic Center 301 N. Main Wichita, Kansas 67202 (316)269-6481

FAX (316)269-6484

**Topeka Office** 444 Quincy Topeka, Kansas 66683

Kansas City Office 500 State Avenue Suite 360 Kansas City, Kansas 66101

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OCTOBER 2, 2003** 

## DODGE CITY, KANSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES \$25,000 GRANT FOR SCHOOL SECURITY

WICHITA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced today that the United States Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) has awarded the Dodge City, Kansas Police Department a \$25,000 grant through the COPS' Secure Our Schools program to be used to install additional security cameras at Dodge City High School.

This grant was part of \$4.9 million in grants awarded to 106 local law enforcement agencies to enhance school safety in 27 states. The Secure Our Schools grant program provides up to 50 percent of the total cost for municipalities to install metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other equipment to help deter crime.

Secure Our Schools is one of several COPS initiatives to enhance school safety. COPS has provided nearly \$700 million to state and local law enforcement agencies to hire and train over 6,100 school resource officers. COPS also provides school safety training, and has published several technical assistance guides to help law enforcement agencies effectively address specific school and youth violence issues.

In addition, COPS supports innovative community policing initiatives, funds the purchase of crime fighting technology, provides training and technical assistance resources, and funds the hiring of local law enforcement officers. Since 1995, COPS has invested \$9.6 billion in the advancement of community policing, including grants awarded to more than 13,000 state and local law enforcement agencies to hire over 118,000 officers.

For additional information about COPS' Secure Our Schools program, visit www.cops.usdoj.gov.